

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 AID-05 MC-02 /057 R

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NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

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PM/SAS/RWSMITH

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P R 212154Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

*USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USMTM DHAHRAN

CHMAAG ADDIS ABABA

CSAF WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

ARMISH MAAG TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, US, SA, SO

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF MAP F-5AS AND BS

9EFS: (A) JIDDA 3950 (B) TEHRAN 5519

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S USEFUL OBSERVATIONS ON TRANSFER
OF MAP F-5A/S FROM IRAN TO ETHIOPIA. TRANSFER INVOLVES
9 EXCESS F-5A/B'S WHICH WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ETHIOPIA AS
MAP SURPLUS. PROBLEM IS THAT ONLY WAY WE CAN GET PLANES TO
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ETHIOPIA IS EITHER TO FLY THEM OVE9 SAUDI ARABIA, MAKING

REFUELING STOP IN COUNTRY, OR TO AIRLIFT THEM BY C-5 AROUND SAUDI ARABIA, INVOLVING CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE AND SOME DELAY. FLYING F-5'S VIA OMAN (REF B) NOT POSSIBLE AS DISTANCES GREATER THAN F-5'S RANGE.

2. WE WELL UNDERSTAND SAUDI SENSITIVITY OVER AID TO ETHIOPIA AND SMALL LIKELIHOOD SAG WOULD AGREE TO ANY USG REQUEST TO TRANSFER THESE PLANES VIA SAUDI ARABIA. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO AT LEAST TRY OBTAIN SAUDI PERMISSION;

3. WE SEE TWO WAYS TO APPROACH SAUDIS ON THIS ISSUE:
(A) USAF SIMPLY FILE FLIGHT PLAN WITH SAUDI AUTHORITIES SPECIFYING REFUELING STOP IN SAUDI ARABIA; (B) RAISING PERMISSION QUESTION

WITH MFA. GIVEN PAST UNDERTAKING TO CONSULT WITH SAG ON REGULAR BASIS CONCERNING SECURITY SITUATION IN RED SEA AREA (PARA 3, REF A) AND RISK OF SAUDI UNHAPPINESS SHOULD THEY EVENTUALLY LEARN OF PURPOSE OF WHAT HAD BEEN BILLED AS QUOTE ROUTINE UNQUOTE F-5 FLIGHTS, WOULD APPEAR THAT (B) BETTER APPROACH.

4. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH MFA, NOTING THAT WE WISH THEM TO KNOW WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CLOSE RELATIONS AND COMMON INTEREST IN SECURITY IN RED SEA AREA. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON REASONS FOR TRANSFER, AS NECESSARY: THE TRANSFER OF THESE AIRCRAFT IS AN OPERATION WHICH WE HAVE BEEN PLANNING SINCE EARLY LAST YEAR TO SUPPLEMENT AND/OR REPLACE F-5A'S FIRST PROVIDED ETHIOPIA UNDER MAP IN 1966. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT CONTINUATION OF OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA SERVES OURS AND THE SAUDIS' PURPOSES BY MAINTAINING SOME US INFLUENCE ON THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (PMG) AND STABILITY IN THE STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT HORN OF AFRICA. A REDUCTION OF THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD WEAKEN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PMG IN THE US AS A RELIABLE ASSOCIATE. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STANDING ARRANGEMENTS, WE INTEND TO FILE A FLIGHT PLAN COVERING THE MOVEMENT OF THESE
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PLANES VIA SAUDI ARABIA (AS IS STANDARD ROUTINE FOR US-OWNED PLANES FLOWN BY US PILOTS AND WITH US MARKINGS.FYI THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE CASE OF THE RECENT AMMUNITION RESUPPLY WHERE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS REQUIRED SPECIFIC OVERFLIGHT AUTHORIZATION IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE CARGO. END FYI. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT DELIVERY OF THESE AIRCRAFT THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA THUS WILL NOT REQUIRE SAG TO PRONOUNCE ITSELF OFFICIALLY ON THIS MOVEMENT. WE

WISHED NEVERTHELESS TO CALL THIS MATTER TO SAG'S
ATTENTION IN BELIEF IT WOULD WISH TO BE INFORMED, AND WE
HOPE IT WILL PERCEIVE NO OBJECTION.

5. IF YOU SEE ANY STRONG OBJECTION TO THIS COURSE OF
ACTION, LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN RECONSIDER
THIS MATTER ON WHICH EARLY ACTION ISURGENTLY NEEDED. SISCO

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